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Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Expenditure authorization for the biennium 2006-2007 (continued) (A/60/7/Add.40 and A/60/889)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on the expenditure authorization for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/889) and to the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/60/7/Add.40). He also drew attention to a letter dated 23 June 2006 that he had received from the President of the General Assembly expressing the latter's intention to assist Member States to reach a consensus decision, by 28 June 2006, authorizing the expenditure of the remaining funds appropriated under General Assembly resolution 60/247 A, and further drew attention to a draft decision which he, the Chairman, had submitted, whereby the Committee would decide to authorize expenditure of the remaining funds.

2. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the text of the letter from the President of the General Assembly.

3. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he was ready to support the draft decision submitted by the Chairman, but also supported the efforts being made to continue the consultations with a view to achieving a consensus. The Group noted the intention of the President of the General Assembly to conclude those consultations by 28 June 2006, and wished to state that the spending cap should be lifted without any conditionality whatsoever.

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (*continued*) (A/60/731 and Add.1 and A/60/893)

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/60/630, A/60/753 and Corr.1 and A/60/896)

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/60/669, A/60/840 and A/60/888)

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/60/634, A/60/724 and A/60/897)

4. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) introduced the Secretary-General's reports on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (A/60/669 and A/60/840), the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) (A/60/731 and Add.1), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (A/60/630 and A/60/753 and Corr.1) and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) (A/60/634 and A/60/724).

5. As stated in the performance report for MONUC for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/888), the General Assembly, by its resolutions 58/259 B and 59/285 A, had appropriated $954.8 million for MONUC for 2004/05. Expenditure for the period had amounted to $900.9 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $53.9 million, or 5.6 per cent of the appropriation. The unencumbered balance was attributable to the delayed deployment of 14 military helicopters, the early termination of a commercial contract for 1 fixed-wing aircraft and the non-deployment of 7 aircraft, slower-than-planned deployment of military personnel and staff, and lower requirements for vehicles and for communications services.

6. The savings achieved had been partially offset by higher requirements for medical services owing to the expansion of services provided by three new military hospitals and higher requirements for separation and deployment costs resulting from a high turnover rate of United Nations Volunteers.

7. The action to be taken by the Assembly, as reflected in the performance report, had been overtaken by the provisions of its resolution 60/255 in connection with the funding of liabilities for after-service health insurance benefits. Consequently, the draft resolution on the financing of MONUC would reflect the credit to Member States of the total amount of $68.8 million, in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.

8. The proposed budget for MONUC for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/840) was estimated at $1,097.3 million, representing a decrease of $36.4 million, or 3.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2005/06. The decrease was attributable to reduced requirements under air

transportation, lower requirements under facilities and infrastructure and communications, the acquisition of fewer vehicles, and reduced requirements under other supplies, services and equipment relating to the deployment of contingent-owned equipment.

9. Those reductions were offset by additional requirements relating to the projected full deployment of military and police units and the proposed increase of the Mission's civilian establishment by 142 international and 830 national staff. Requirements for MONUC had been based on the assumption that elections would be held by 30 June 2006. In connection with the delay in holding the elections and the pending determination of the full related resource requirements, the Secretary-General intended to absorb those requirements, to the fullest extent possible, from within the proposed 2006/07 budget. Related expenditures would be reported in the context of the Mission's 2006/07 performance report.

10. As reflected in paragraph 221 of the budget document, the action to be taken by the General Assembly included the appropriation of $1,097.3 million for 2006/07, assessment of $274.3 million for the period 1 July to 30 September 2006, and assessment of $823.0 million for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 June 2007, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

11. The report on the financing of ONUB (A/60/731 and Add.1) related to a request for commitment authority for the period 1 July to 31 October 2006. The Secretary-General had originally planned to submit a full budget for ONUB for 2006/07, but felt it prudent to request commitment authority for the period 1 July to 31 October 2006, pending the decision of the Security Council on the Secretary-General's proposals in his report to the Council (S/2006/163), which included the planned withdrawal of ONUB by the end of 2006. Pursuant to the Council's decision, the Secretary-General would submit the full 2006/07 budget during the main part of the Assembly's sixty-first session. The action to be taken by the Assembly, as reflected in paragraph 38 of the report, included authorization for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period 1 July to 31 October 2006 in an amount not exceeding $79.2 million.

12. Introducing the performance report for UNOCI for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/630), he recalled that the General Assembly, by its resolution 59/16 A of 29 October 2004, had appropriated $378.5 million for UNOCI for 2004/05. Expenditure for that period had amounted to $336.9 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $41.6 million, or 11.0 per cent.

13. The unencumbered balance was attributable to non-deployment of eight helicopters; reduced expenditure on equipment, rental of premises and utilities; the acquisition of fewer heavy vehicles to support contingents and fewer items of airfield support equipment; lower freight costs for contingent-owned equipment, lower rotation costs for military contingents and lower ration costs; and delays in the deployment of police personnel.

14. The action to be taken, as reflected in the performance report, had been overtaken by Assembly resolution 60/255 in connection with the funding of liabilities for after-service health insurance benefits. Consequently, the draft resolution on the financing of UNOCI would reflect the credit to Member States of $57.4 million, in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.

15. The proposed budget for UNOCI for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/753 and Corr.1) was estimated at $420.2 million, representing an increase of $1.4 million, or 0.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2005/06. The increase was partially attributable to higher requirements relating to the projected full deployment of the staff approved in 2005/06 and the phased deployment of additional staff in 2006/07. The increase was offset by a 35-per-cent reduction in planned helicopter flight hours and a reconfiguration of the aircraft fleet, reduced acquisition for various items of equipment, and reduced requirements for freight costs for contingent-owned equipment.

16. The action to be taken by the Assembly, as reflected in paragraph 38 of the report, included the appropriation of $420.2 million to maintain the operation in 2006/07, assessment of $192.0 million for the period 1 July to 15 December 2006, and assessment of $228.2 million for the period 16 December 2006 to 30 June 2007, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate.

17. Subsequent to the submission of the proposed budget for UNOCI for 2006/07, the Security Council, by its resolution 1682 (2006), had authorized, until 15 December 2006, an increase in the strength of

UNOCI of up to 1,500 additional personnel, including a maximum of 1,025 military personnel and 475 civilian police personnel. In light of that decision, the Secretary-General intended to submit a revised budget for UNOCI for 2006/07 for consideration by the Assembly during the main part of its sixty-first session.

18. In connection with the performance report for MINURSO for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/634), he recalled that the General Assembly, by its resolution 58/309, had appropriated $41.9 million for the Mission for 2004/05. Expenditure for that period had amounted to $41.4 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $462,000, or 1.1 per cent of the appropriation. The unencumbered balance was primarily attributable to a higher vacancy rate for staff. Savings had been partially offset by increased usage of fixed-wing aircraft, in line with the policy of segregating cargo and passenger flights and owing to mechanical problems with helicopters.

19. The action to be taken by the Assembly, as reflected in the performance report, had been overtaken by the provisions of its resolution 60/255 in connection with the funding of liabilities for after-service health insurance benefits. Consequently, the draft resolution on the financing of MINURSO would reflect the credit to Member States of the total amount of $1.5 million, in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.

20. The proposed budget for MINURSO for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/724) was estimated at $42.8 million, representing a decrease of $2.7 million, or 6.0 per cent, from the appropriation for 2005/06. The decrease was attributable to three main factors: a reduction in the number of posts as a result of a Security Council-mandated review of the structure of the administrative and other civilian components of MINURSO; reduced requirements for vehicles in comparison to the 2005/06 period; and a reduction in the planned flight hours for helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. The overall reduction was partially offset by additional requirements for 24 civilian security posts.

21. The action to be taken by the General Assembly, as reflected in paragraph 44 of the report, included appropriation of $42.8 million for the Mission for 2006/07 and assessment of $42.8 million for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

22. Lastly, he pointed out that, as of 30 April 2006, total outstanding contributions to MINURSO had amounted to more than $45 million, which exceeded budgeted provisions for a full year of Mission operations and reflected chronic underfunding. As a result, troop contributors had not been reimbursed for more than two years. The situation was clearly unsatisfactory and merited the attention of Member States.

23. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related reports of the Advisory Committee. As reflected in its report on MONUC (A/60/888), the Advisory Committee was recommending a reduction of slightly more than $6 million for the Mission owing to delays in deployment and the Committee's recommendations with regard to posts.

24. A wide-ranging consultants' study of MONUC had recently been completed. The results were still being evaluated by the Secretariat and had not been reflected in the current budget proposed. The Advisory Committee looked forward to the Secretariat's full analysis of the study and to relevant proposals, which should be contained in the next budget submission for MONUC. The organizational structure of the Mission at headquarters remained very complex, and some of its functions appeared to be unnecessarily fragmented. Continued efforts should be made to address those deficiencies and the results should be reflected in the next budget submission.

25. The Advisory Committee had been informed of delays in the deployment schedule of both military and civilian personnel, and had requested and received information on the consequent downward adjustments to the budget estimates. Those adjustments had been reflected, as appropriate, in its report.

26. The proposed budget for MONUC contained requests for a large number of conversions from general temporary assistance, as well as new posts and the retention of temporary positions. The Advisory Committee's ability to properly analyse the requests of the Secretary-General had in the past been hampered by the late submission of MONUC budgets and/or the need to revise them frequently. The situation had not improved in respect of the proposed budget for 2006/07.

27. In its recommendations on human resources for MONUC, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the significant projected savings for the

current period and persistent high vacancy rates, especially for international posts. It was also mindful that neither the consultants' report nor the Secretary-General's reaction to it had been fully reflected in the proposed budget for 2006/07.

28. With respect to the Advisory Committee's report on ONUB (A/60/893), he noted that the Secretary-General was requesting commitment authority only, at the current stage, pending the preparation of a full budget on the basis of a Security Council decision on the Mission's mandate. The Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the requested commitment authority, albeit without prejudice to its future consideration of the Mission's staffing and other requirements. In view of the expenditure pattern described in paragraph 8 of its report, an assessment of 50 per cent of the commitment authority should suffice.

29. As set out in its report on UNOCI (A/60/896), the Advisory Committee was recommending acceptance of the Secretary-General's estimate. It had been informed of the continuing cooperation between the Mission and the High Representative for the elections, and trusted that the Mission would continue to assist him, especially with regard to logistics, while respecting the functional independence of his office. The Advisory Committee's report on UNOCI was fairly long, covering human resource proposals and a number of operational issues, including ground transportation, travel, quick-impact projects, inter-mission cooperation and child protection.

30. As reflected in its report on MINURSO (A/60/897), the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the Secretary-General's estimate, with only a very small reduction relating to its recommendation concerning the grade level of a requested post for the Conduct and Discipline Unit.

31. ACABQ had noted the low level of the unencumbered balance projected to remain at the end of the 2005/06 budget period. It appeared that budgetary assumptions had been refined in order to ensure that the Mission's financial resources were being utilized and managed properly. There appeared to be a consistently high vacancy rate. In view of the Mission's restructuring efforts, the Advisory Committee would continue to monitor those matters and consider the budgeted vacancy rate and staffing levels in the context of the 2007/08 budget presentation. Lastly, ACABQ had welcomed the implementation of management reviews and, on that basis, recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff, with the small exception of recommending a P-4 instead of a P-5, as set out in paragraph 25 of its report.

32. **Mr. Ng'ongolo** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 137, welcomed the presentation of the information on the performance of ONUB in a results-based budgeting framework, as well as the reported progress towards bringing about peace and security in Burundi. The African Group was grateful for the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to complement those of the African Union, the countries of the Great Lakes region and the people of Burundi.

33. The political problem in Burundi was long-standing and complex, and thus very difficult to resolve; hopes of finding a solution had often been dashed in the past. However, Africa had always been determined to ensure that lasting peace was achieved. The African Group wished to pay tribute to the prominent Africans who had helped make it possible to conclude the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, signed in 2000.

34. The Group had taken note with interest of the consultations between the United Nations and the democratically elected Government of Burundi on the plan for a gradual disengagement of the United Nations peacekeeping presence and an adjustment of the mandate of ONUB. The Secretary-General and the Government of Burundi should cooperate closely in monitoring developments in the country. The Government of Burundi, aware of its limited capacity to build upon the progress achieved thus far, had requested the United Nations and donor agencies to provide assistance through the newly established Peacebuilding Commission. The Group welcomed the Burundian Government's initiatives in that regard.

35. In the light of the signing of a comprehensive peace accord between the Government of Burundi and the PALIPEHUTU — Forces nationales de libération (FNL) on 18 June 2006, the African Group commended both sides for giving priority to the interests of their country and its people. It encouraged the two parties to build on their efforts to achieve a complete halt to the hostilities and bring about lasting peace, security and

stability, which were essential to the country's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

36. Despite those positive developments, the situation in Burundi remained fragile. The United Nations therefore still had an important role to play in assisting the Government of Burundi. The African Group had taken note of the comments of the Advisory Committee regarding the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority in the amount of $79,179,200, and welcomed the Secretary-General's request.

37. **Mr. Sadouk** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 138, said that many significant developments had taken place in Côte d'Ivoire since the adoption of the revised budget of UNOCI in November 2005. A new Government composed of all the signatories to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement had been appointed, a road map for peace had been established and the ministerial-level International Working Group had been entrusted with verifying that all the necessary powers were delegated to the newly appointed Prime Minister.

38. The peace process, too, had made a number of significant and positive strides. The newly established Independent Electoral Commission had finalized its structure and rules of procedure, and 21 regional commissions had been established. A working group on identification and elections had been established under the supervision of the Prime Minister. Furthermore, at a meeting of Ivorian leaders held in Yamoussoukro on 28 February 2006, agreement had been reached on a number of outstanding issues, including the disarmament and identification processes, election preparations and the media's role in the peace process. Such positive developments had eased tensions and improved the overall political climate, thus enabling the Government to begin implementing the road map and focus on other priority issues such as the revitalization of the economy. The African Group commended the people of Côte d'Ivoire for their clear determination to move forward. The election preparations were noteworthy and every effort should be made to support the process adequately. In that respect, the African Group called on all Ivorian parties to maintain a constructive engagement in order to help consolidate the work of both the Commission and UNOCI.

39. UNOCI had a vital role to play in ensuring the attainment of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. In accordance with its mandate, it was tasked with, inter alia, providing guidance and technical assistance during the preparations for and holding of elections; monitoring the ceasefire agreement, the movement of armed groups and the redeployment of forces; assisting in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme; and promoting the rule of law and human rights. However, such tasks could be performed only with the tangible support of all Member States. The African Group expressed appreciation to all States that had contributed directly or indirectly to the positive developments being seen in Côte d'Ivoire, and reaffirmed its strong support for UNOCI, which must be given all the resources necessary to accomplish its mandates.

40. The Security Council had taken note of developments in Côte d'Ivoire and, by its resolution 1682 (2006), had authorized an increase in the strength of UNOCI of up to 1,500 additional personnel, including a maximum of 1,025 military personnel and 475 civilian police personnel.

41. The proposed 2006/07 budget of $420.2 million represented an increase of 0.3 per cent over the $418.8 million apportioned for 2005/06. The African Group had taken note of the Advisory Committee's observation that additional resources would be required to support the deployment of the 1,500 additional personnel authorized by the Security Council. Thus, a revised 2006/07 budget for UNOCI should be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

42. The African Group agreed with ACABQ that there had been an overall improvement in the presentation of the proposed budget, including expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and actual outputs. It commended UNOCI for fully responding to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 59/296 with respect to results-based budgeting. It also joined ACABQ in commending the efforts of UNOCI to develop a results-oriented management culture focused on achieving desired programme goals. It endorsed the Advisory Committee's request that UNOCI should share its budgeting experience with other peacekeeping operations.

43. Although the budget proposal included an increase of 91 posts, the Group continued to be concerned about the prevalence of high vacancy rates at UNOCI. The staff shortages would undoubtedly affect its ability to carry out its activities. While it joined the Advisory Committee in commending the Secretariat on its efforts to fill the vacant posts at UNOCI, the Group would be seeking further clarification during information consultations.

44. While the appropriate framework for achieving a peaceful and lasting settlement to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire was in place, a final solution could be reached only if the international community lent its support to the electoral process, to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and to the work of the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

45. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 140, said that the Group was pleased to have the opportunity to consider a full budget for MONUC, prepared with due regard for the provisions of Security Council resolution 1635 (2005). Previous budgets had not taken account of additional mandates given to the Mission, as the budget estimates had been prepared prior to the adoption of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Group joined the Advisory Committee in commending the Mission on the progress achieved in presenting its activities in the results-based budgeting format, in both the performance report and the budget submission. It trusted that future budget submissions would include more precise indicators of achievement.

46. The Group recognized the tremendous challenges facing the Mission in connection with the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections and the progress achieved thus far, including the registration of more than 25 million voters and the adoption of a new Constitution by the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was important to secure those gains and to ensure that the Mission had the resources necessary to provide effective support to the elections and other processes that would help to ensure a lasting peace and socio-economic revival in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In that context, the Group appreciated the understanding, support and cooperation of the international community.

47. As the Advisory Committee pointed out, no training courses were planned on elections, although that activity would be a priority in the coming period. The Group trusted that that omission would be rectified. It had taken note of the Mission's capacity-building efforts, including the proposed conversion of general temporary assistance positions to national staff posts. The Mission should continue to explore other capacity-building mechanisms, including quick-impact projects.

48. The late issuance of the Advisory Committee's report had left the Group little time to study it. Accordingly, it would make only preliminary remarks at the current stage. In that connection, it noted that, in the past, the Advisory Committee had been unable to properly analyse the Secretary-General's requests because of the late submission of MONUC budgets and the frequent need to revise them. The Secretary-General should inform the Security Council that the timing of its decisions affected the ability of missions to prepare and revise their budgets in a timely manner and placed the General Assembly under considerable strain when it came to review them.

49. Given the scope of the Mission's mandate, the resources requested for 2006/07 appeared reasonable. The Group would therefore welcome clarification of how the $6.1 million reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee would affect the Mission's ability to fulfil its mandate.

50. As at 31 December 2005, the Mission had owed amounts to Member States for both troop costs and contingent-owned equipment. All outstanding amounts should be settled quickly and, in future, payments should be made in a more timely manner. The Group was concerned to note that 12 claims for death and disability compensation were still pending and wished to know what action had been taken to address the problem.

51. The General Assembly had previously expressed concern about the very high rate of attrition among MONUC staff and the related difficulties in recruitment and had requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to rectify the situation. However, several months later, vacancy rates in the Mission remained very high. The Group would therefore welcome an assurance that the matter would receive greater attention. It noted with satisfaction the four-pronged strategy adopted to meet the need for francophone candidates for civilian positions in peacekeeping operations. While such initiatives should

be encouraged, further action was required directly targeting MONUC.

52. The Group welcomed the study undertaken by the Dalberg consultants on the Mission's staffing and structure. It trusted that, when the Secretariat had concluded its review of the study, it would report to the General Assembly on the relevance of the consultants' recommendations, not only for MONUC, but also for other peacekeeping operations. It expected that any needed improvements to the Mission's organizational structure would be made in due course. In that connection, it looked forward to receiving, in informal consultations, further information on the Mission's existing structure and the deployment of its human resources. It had taken note of the establishment of a coordination network and wished to know how the Mission would build on that welcome development.

53. Lastly, the Group was grateful to all those who had collaborated closely with the Mission, particularly the African Union.

54. **Mr. Drofenik** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had always strongly supported the Organization's peacekeeping activities. Indeed, its members contributed almost 38 per cent of the peacekeeping budget. It believed that each mission should be judged on its merits. Its general approach to peacekeeping matters had been outlined in previous statements. However, it wished to note its concern about the late submission of documentation. It was committed to making progress in the Committee's consideration of the mission budgets and would work constructively with other delegations to that end.

55. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America) said that her delegation was very concerned about the timing of the introduction of the proposed budgets for the peacekeeping missions under consideration. Her delegation attached great importance to the right of Member States to consider those budgets, and all other peacekeeping mission budgets, in full, in order to have a solid understanding and justification of the resources being requested. The fact that the proposed budgets in question had been introduced at such a late stage cast doubt on whether they could be considered in full by 28 June. Her delegation encouraged the Secretary-General to ensure that future budgets and the related reports of ACABQ were introduced to the Committee in a timely manner to allow for full consideration of the issues.

56. In light of their late issuance, her delegation was not in a position to comment on the reports before the Committee and would reserve its questions for informal consultations.

57. **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) said that his Government was actively engaged in the quest for peace in Burundi and was also contributing to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. Uganda was a neighbour of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and his Government therefore attached great importance to stability in that country.

58. Owing to the late submission of the proposed budget for MONUC, his delegation had not had sufficient time to study it. It wished, however, to commend the Secretary-General for preparing a submission that took account of recent and forthcoming events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the constitutional referendum and the presidential and parliamentary elections. Specific recommendations should be given for preparing a results-based budget that provided for post-transitional activities in such areas as good governance; coordination of international technical and political support; assistance to the Government in re-establishing State authority; disarmament of foreign combatants; support for national security; organization of local elections; and humanitarian assistance.

59. His delegation would continue to support the reduction of transportation costs through greater use of road transport; a stronger focus on the regional dimension in efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the establishment of sustainable mechanisms for regional cooperation in the Great Lakes region; implementation of repatriation, reinsertion and resettlement programmes for disarmed and demobilized foreign ex-combatants; operational links with ONUB and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), including joint positioning, cordon-and-search operations and the establishment of weapons-free zones; and coordination with ONUB, UNMIS and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in the use of personnel and assets. It welcomed the review undertaken of the Mission's concept of administrative and logistical support and trusted that it would lead to more efficient, direct and

therefore cost-effective delivery of services. It also welcomed the incorporation in the budget submission of some of the recommendations made by the Dalberg consultants.

60. His Government pledged to ensure the continued availability of an expanded logistics base in Entebbe. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's resource proposals and would seek further clarification in informal consultations concerning the impact of the recommendations of ACABQ.

61. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that, since his delegation had already made a comprehensive statement on the United Nations peacekeeping operations and the Committee was working under great pressure of time, he would not make a detailed statement on the individual mission budgets under consideration. He wished, however, to express regret that delegations had not had time to fully analyse the proposed budgets of the three missions or to seek guidance from their capitals. The budget for MONUC, in particular, had been issued very late, and delegations had received the related report of ACABQ only a few days before the current meeting. Moreover, the Secretariat had yet to complete its examination of the consultants' review of the staffing and structure of MONUC, and the consultants' recommendations had not therefore been fully reflected in the budget submission. That situation was unacceptable, given the size of the Mission's budget.

62. **Mr. Banny** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his Government was deeply grateful for the assistance provided by the international community through UNOCI. Over the last six months, there had been substantial progress in Côte d'Ivoire. The new Government had taken a series of measures which, it was hoped, would bring about a rapprochement among political leaders. He was pleased to announce that the Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire, the Forces de défense et de sécurité (FDS) and the Forces nouvelles had withdrawn from the front line, and regrouping of soldiers had begun. Regarding the identification of the population, pilot projects had been conducted in 10 areas across the territory of Côte d'Ivoire, including one under rebel control. A return to normality was thus under way in the country. He hoped that the proposed budget for UNOCI would be approved, so as to allow the restoration of peace and prosperity in Côte d'Ivoire.

63. **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), speaking also on behalf of Guatemala, said that the two delegations wished to align themselves with the statements made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group concerning agenda items 137, 138 and 140, respectively. They agreed that peace in Burundi was of fundamental importance, for both Africa and the world, and that ONUB must have the resources necessary to facilitate the restoration of lasting peace and the achievement of national reconciliation and sustainable development in that country. They also strongly supported UNOCI, which must be provided with the funds required to successfully implement its mandate. With regard to MONUC, they joined the representative of Nigeria in requesting the Secretariat to provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the $6.1 million reduction in the proposed budget for the Mission recommended by ACABQ. Lastly, the resources requested for quick-impact projects should be provided in full and without conditions.

64. **Mr. Seakamela** (South Africa) said that the peace processes in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained priorities for the international community. In that connection, his delegation supported the efforts of the African Union, through its Peace and Security Council, to assist the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the challenges facing them. It welcomed the finalization of a date for the country's first elections in more than 40 years. It was aware that peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were critical for the establishment of sustainable and durable peace and prosperity for the region and for the African continent as a whole.

65. South Africa had been working tirelessly on behalf of the African Union and through the International Working Group to bring an end to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. It was encouraged by the commitments made by the President and Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire to work together in recognition of their responsibility to the country. The implementation of the first phase of the disarmament process was a welcome development. His Government would continue to encourage further progress, particularly on key outstanding issues relating to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and national identification processes.

66. His Government wished to reiterate its commitment to work with the regional leadership of the African Union and with the Government and people of Burundi to find sustainable solutions to the political challenges facing that country with a view to bringing lasting peace to Burundi. In that context, it welcomed the decision by PALIPEHUTU-FNL to enter into unconditional negotiations with the Government of Burundi, which had led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

67. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/296, had tasked the management of the various peacekeeping missions and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with a range of reviews and steps to ensure that peacekeeping operations were managed effectively and that their financial and human resources were used efficiently. His delegation was encouraged by the measures taken by ONUB, UNOCI and MONUC to ensure the implementation of the resolution and of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee, as adopted by the Assembly.

68. Lastly, it reiterated its full support for the continuation of quick-impact projects beyond the initial two-year time frame, particularly where that was necessitated by developments on the ground or by changes in a mission's mandate.

69. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) said that his delegation supported the statements made by the representatives of the United Nations Republic of Tanzania, Morocco and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and hoped that their concerns would be given due consideration. While his delegation welcomed the reports that had been introduced, it was concerned by their late issuance, which prevented them from being considered properly. The missions in question were large and complex and raised issues for troop-contributing countries, the countries in which they were located and other countries in the region. The Committee needed to thoroughly debate all cross-cutting issues. The current practice prevented it from doing so. The problem needed to be looked at seriously. Reports should be issued by March at the latest, to allow time for the Advisory Committee to formulate its recommendations and for Member States to discuss them.

70. Pakistan feared that it and other troop-contributing countries would be forced to finance the presence of troops in the countries concerned if agreement could not be reached on the proposed budgets. That would constitute yet another burden for troop contributors, in addition to the problem of outstanding reimbursements. He asked the Secretary-General to look very carefully at the issue.

71. His delegation was also concerned about the visible linkages being made between progress on the proposed budgets and certain other issues. Even though such linkages had created problems in the Committee's deliberations on other issues and there had been a clear understanding among delegations that they should be avoided, there seemed to be a deliberate policy of obstructing agreement on vital peacekeeping missions. He hoped that such thinking would not impede the early conclusion of the Committee's discussion of peacekeeping budgets.

72. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), associating his delegation with the statement made by the representative of Brazil, said that all missions, in particular those under consideration at the current meeting, should have sufficient resources to effectively carry out their mandates, particularly in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the implementation of quick-impact projects, which were essential for the missions' success.

73. **Mr. Singh** (India), endorsing the statements made on behalf of the African Group, said that his delegation supported current United Nations and African Union endeavours to restore peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Western Sahara. He shared Pakistan's concerns regarding the delayed introduction of peacekeeping budgets, which did not allow the Committee enough time to discuss complicated issues. As a major troop-contributing country, India, too, was concerned that the 30 June deadline was fast approaching. It did not wish to see its peacekeepers left without resources after that date. He therefore hoped that the proposed budgets of the various peacekeeping operations would be adopted expeditiously.

74. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), aligning her delegation with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group, said that her delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for $420.2 million for UNOCI for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, a request also fully endorsed by ACABQ. Recalling that UNOCI had resulted from the amalgamation of the United Nations Mission in Côte

d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), she said that ECOWAS member States, like all African States, paid close attention to the mission. While there had been setbacks and challenges along the way, there had also been a concerted effort by all to achieve a positive outcome. In particular, efforts to implement the road map for peace established by the International Working Group had been made, the structure and rules of procedure of the Independent Electoral Commission had been established and 21 regional commissions had been set up. She commended the Operation's contribution to the electoral process and the continuing cooperation between the mission and the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire. She hoped that that effort would be maintained.

75. Her delegation recalled the Advisory Committee's call for the mission to continue to assist the Office of the High Representative for the elections and joined it in commending UNOCI on the improvements in the presentation of its performance report and proposed budget. Her delegation also supported the statement made by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, welcomed the recent positive developments in the political arena and commended the steps taken towards the restoration of peace and prosperity for the Ivorian people.

76. She reiterated her delegation's concern about the late issuance of important reports, and trusted that a greater effort would be made to address the issue. She also endorsed the comments made by the representatives of Brazil, South Africa, Pakistan, Argentina and India regarding UNOCI and the other missions under consideration. The various points raised were pertinent to the successful implementation of their various mandates.

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/60/898 and A/60/900)

77. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the resource requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/898), recalled that the Advisory Committee, in paragraphs 114 and 115 of its report on the proposed budget for the support account for 2006/07 (A/60/807), had recommended that the Assembly should defer action on the post and non-post resources proposed for OIOS under the support account for 2006/07 pending the submission of the report on governance and oversight, which would include a detailed review of OIOS as part of the United Nations machinery. Pending its consideration of the report, the Assembly was requested to provide interim resources for OIOS for 2006/07 to ensure continuous oversight of United Nations peacekeeping activities.

78. As reflected in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's note (A/60/898), the Assembly was requested to approve, on an interim basis, $21.8 million for OIOS under the support account, comprising non-post resources in the amount of $18.8 million for the continuation of approved 2005/06 resources in 2006/07, inclusive of 119 general temporary assistance positions; non-post resources of $918,800 for 11 general temporary assistance positions in the Resident Audit Unit of UNMIS; and non-post resources of $2.1 million for additional requirements, inclusive of 13 general temporary assistance positions. The Assembly was also requested to include $21.8 million in the resources for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping missions for 2006/07.

79. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/60/900), said that the only point he wished to emphasize was that the Advisory Committee intended to revisit the resource requirements of OIOS after all relevant reports on OIOS had been considered by the General Assembly. To that end, it would expect the Secretary-General to prepare such revised estimates as were necessary, including for the support account.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.